

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 4-10 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-10 remain at issue in the above-identified application.

**I. Objection To Specification**

Applicants thank the Examiner for reminding them of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. Applicants have amended the abstract accordingly.

**II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Saether et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,219 B2). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a transmitting apparatus, and includes transmitting means for transmitting a first message and a second message. The first message contains the first difference information with the addition of the change tracking value. The second message contains the second difference information with the addition of a filtering mask value and the change tracking value of the hierarchical structure. The filtering mask value corresponds to a container entry being directly above the leaf entry which corresponds to the second difference information.

Contrary to Claim 1, Saether et al. neither discloses nor suggests transmitting a first message containing the first difference information with the addition of the change tracking value or transmitting a second message containing the second difference information with the addition of a filtering mask value and the change tracking value of the hierarchical structure.

Thus, Claim 1 is allowable over Saether et al. Similarly, dependent claims 2 and 3 are also allowable over Saether et al. by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1.

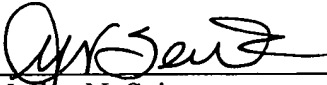
For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 are also allowable over Saether et al. Additionally, claims 6 and 9, which depend from claims 5 and 8, respectively, are also allowable over Saether et al. by virtue of their respective dependencies from an allowable independent claim.

### III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 23, 2004

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marina N. Saito  
Registration No. 42,121  
SONNENSCHNEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. Box 061080  
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080  
(312) 876-8000